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COUNTRY COOPERATION FRAMEWORK AND RELATED MATTERS

EXTENSION OF THE FIFTH COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR COSTA RICA

Note by the Administrator

1. The fifth country programme for Costa Rica (1992-1996) was approved by the Governing Council at its thirty-ninth session in May 1992.

2. The programme was originally formulated to support the modernization and transformation of the productive apparatus; poverty alleviation and environment and sustainable development. The mid-term review, in 1995, concluded that a reorientation of the country programme was necessary in light of the Government's priorities and past UNDP experience. The new areas of concentration are: State modernization and governance (consensus-building, regulation and privatization processes, and institutional reforms); social development; and environment and sustainable development. These areas of concentration will remain the same during the requested extension.

3. Presidential Elections will take place in Costa Rica in February 1998, with the new Government taking office in March 1998. In order for the activities of the next programming period to be relevant and respond to the national priorities of the new Government, it will be necessary to carry out discussions and consensus-building with the two main political parties and civil society during the electoral year 1997. This process will guarantee that the first Country Cooperation Framework (CCF) for Costa Rica will have the support of the new Government and will respond to the subsequent National Development Plan.

4. It is expected that the formulation of the CCF will be finalized in the first quarter of 1998, and the document will be ready for submission to the Executive Board at its annual session 1998.

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5. The Administrator wishes to inform the Executive Board that he has approved the extension of the fifth country programme for Costa Rica for a period of one year, beginning 1 January 1997.